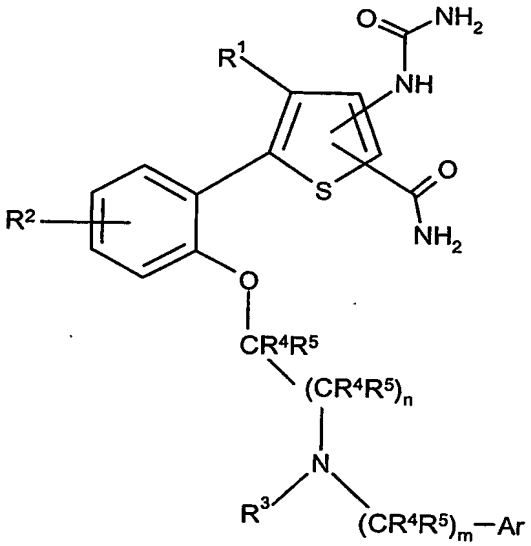
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

in which:

R^1 represents H or CH_3;

R^2 represents H, halogen, cyano, C1 to 2 alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C1 to 2 alkoxy;

n represents an integer 1, 2 or 3;

m represents an integer 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R^3 represents H, C2 to 4 alkenyl or C1 to 4 alkyl; said alkyl group being optionally further substituted by CN, C1 to 4 alkoxy, C1 to 4 alkyl–SO_2– or one or more fluoro atoms;

or R^3 represents a C1 to 4 alkylene group that forms a 4 to 7 membered azacyclic ring by virtue of being additionally bonded to either the aromatic ring, Ar, or to the linker group, –CR^4R^5– $(CR^4R^5)_n$–;

R^4 and R^5 independently represent H or C1 to 2 alkyl; or the group CR^4R^5 together represents a 3 to 6 membered carbocyclic ring that optionally incorporates one heteroatom selected from O or S; and each R^4, each R^5 and each group CR^4R^5 is selected independently;

Ar represents a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three heteroatoms selected independently from O, N and S; said phenyl or heteroaromatic ring being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected independently from halogen, cyano, C1 to 2 alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C1 to 2 alkoxy, NR^6R^7, $-CONR^6R^7$, $-COOR^6$, $-NR^6COR^7$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-SO_2NR^6R^7$ and $-NR^6SO_2R^7$;

R^6 and R^7 independently represent H, C2 to 4 alkenyl or C1 to 4 alkyl; said alkyl or alkenyl groups being optionally further substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

p represents an integer 0, 1 or 2;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, wherein n represents the integer 1.

3. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein R^1 represents H.

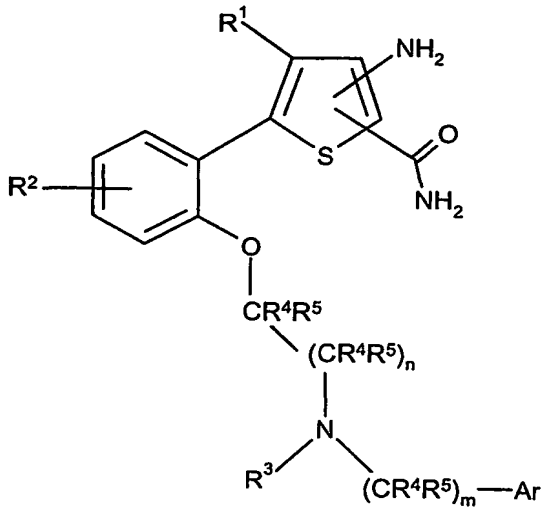
4. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which Ar represents optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted pyridyl.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which each R^4 and each R^5 represents H.

6. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which m represents the integer 1.

7. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, which comprises:

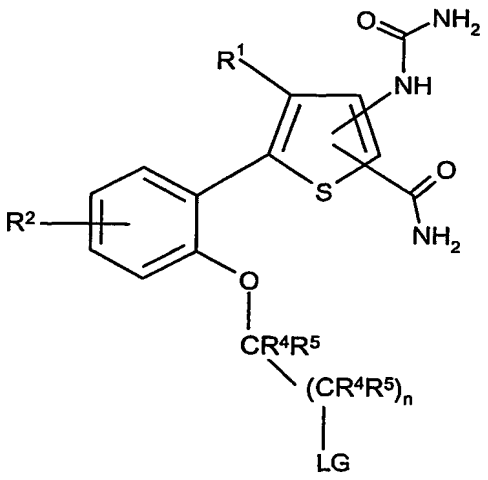
(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, Ar, m and n are as defined in Claim 1, with an isocyanate; or

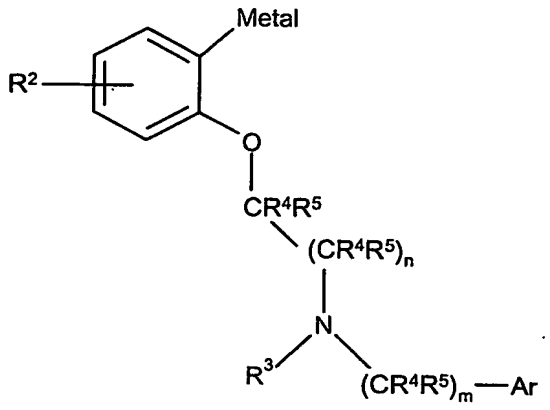
(b) reaction of compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^4, R^5 and n are as defined in Claim 1 and LG represents a leaving group, with an amine ($R^3NH(CR^4R^5)_m$–Ar) wherein R^3, R^4, R^5, Ar and m are as defined in Claim 1; or

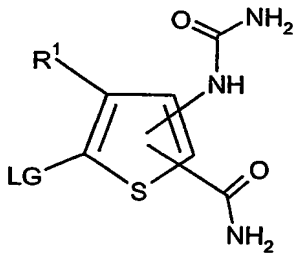
(c) reaction of compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, m, n and Ar are as defined in Claim 1,

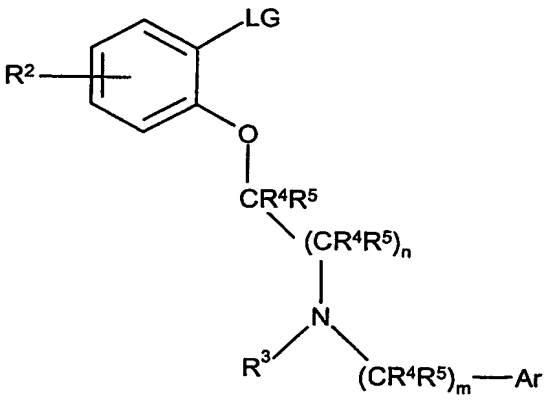
with a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1 and LG represents a leaving group; or

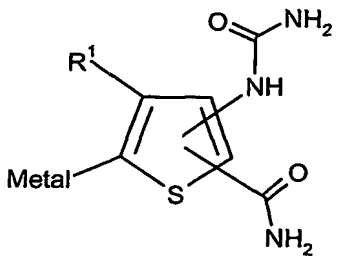
(d) reaction of compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, m, n and Ar are as defined in Claim 1 and LG represents a leaving group,

with a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

wherein R^1 is as defined in Claim 1;

and where necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into a further compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

9. A pharmaceutical composition adapted for administration by inhalation or insufflation. comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

10. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 8 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

11. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, for use in therapy.

12. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases or conditions in which inhibition of IKK-2 activity is beneficial.

13. Use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory disease.

14. The use as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

15. The use as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the disease is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

16. The use as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the disease is cancer.

17. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, diseases or conditions in which inhibition of IKK-2 activity is beneficial which comprises administering to a person suffering from or at risk of said disease or condition a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.